



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Number	249
Status	Active
Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A 2. Pol. 218 3. Pol. 233 22 PA Code 12.3 24 P.S. 1302-A Pol. 218 Pol. 233 Pol. 236 Pol. 248
Adopted	November 13, 2008
Last Revised	May 14, 2015

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Students who are bullied, harassed, intimidated or fearful of other students may not be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the school district.

Bullying/Cyberbullying and harassment can also escalate into more serious violence. To that end, the school district has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying/cyberbullying and harassment, as well as processes and procedures to deal with incidents of bullying/cyberbullying and harassment when they occur.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated vehicles; while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct creates a substantial disruption to the learning environment. Students who file a bullying/cyberbullying complaint or who have assisted or participated in any manner in a bullying/cyberbullying investigation may not be retaliated against.

Definitions

Bullying/Cyberbullying includes three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.
4. Teasing is not bullying.

Bullying/Cyberbullying can take many forms and can include many different behaviors, such as:

1. Verbal bullying including derogatory comments and bad names.
2. Bullying through social exclusion or isolation.
3. Physical bullying such as hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting.
4. Bullying through lies and false rumors.
5. Having money or other things taken or damaged by students who bully.
6. Being threatened or being forced to do things by students who bully.
7. Racial bullying.
8. Sexual bullying.
9. Cyberbullying (via cell phone or internet).

Characterizations of **bullying/cyberbullying**:

1. It is aggressive behavior with the intent to do harm doing.
2. It happens when one or more persons with more power unfairly and intentionally hurt someone with less power; the hurt may be physical, social, or emotional.
3. It is carried out repeatedly and over time.

Social Networking - A social structure made of individuals or organizations that are tied by one or more specific type of interdependency, such as values, vision, friendship, etc.

Academic Social Network - For the purpose of this procedure, an academic social network is an online learning community created for a specific purpose of promoting education and directly tied to the course curriculum.

Authority

The school district will not tolerate any acts of bullying/cyberbullying occurring on school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on or off school grounds, or during the time students necessarily spend traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities, or transmitted in any way through school computers, networks or equipment. Additionally, events that include on-line activities that cause a substantial disruption to the school environment whether the student is using school resources, or not, shall be considered a nexus to the school environment. Specifically, online activities, cell phone transmission, chat rooms and any other form of online communications shall be included and encompassed by this policy.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyberbullying.

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of his/her fellow students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying and cyberbullying.

Students shall be encouraged to report bullying or cyberbullying complaints to district employees.

Teachers and other staff (including, but not limited to, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, hall monitors, etc.) who observe acts of bullying/cyberbullying shall take reasonable steps to intervene to stop such conduct. In cases where direct intervention would threaten a staff member's safety it is the responsibility of the staff member to obtain immediate assistance. The nature of the non-emergency interventions will vary depending upon the age of the student (both the victim and aggressor), the severity of the bullying/cyberbullying and the student's involvement in prior acts of bullying/cyberbullying. The purpose of the intervention is to take prompt remedial steps to ensure observed acts of bullying/cyberbullying cease and to teach students that bullying/cyberbullying is not acceptable behavior.

If teachers and/or other staff cannot reasonably remediate acts of bullying/cyberbullying through their own intervention, they must immediately report the bullying/cyberbullying to the building principal. Other school employees who observe acts of bullying/cyberbullying shall report that conduct to the building principal.

The building principal or his/her designee will inform parents/guardians of the victim and person accused.

Guidelines**Student, Parent/Guardian and Employee Responsibility**

The school district expects all students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying/cyberbullying to immediately report that conduct to the building principal.

All employees who receive a bullying or cyberbullying complaint shall report the event to a building administrator to determine if bullying or cyberbullying has occurred.

Guidelines -

1. The district shall make every effort to ensure that academic social networking resources are used responsibly by students and staff.
2. Administrators and staff members have a professional responsibility to help each student learn the value of appropriate collaboration and communication via technology.
3. Wiki spaces, blogging sites and other authentic forms of electronic journalistic publication are posted on the internet. Students and staff will use such sites as a discussion board to post and respond to information pertaining to the various learning topics within the curriculum established by the Dallastown Area School District. The discussion boards will serve as a tool to engage students in collaborative projects that will foster 21st century learning skills.

4. All content must be directly related to the course curriculum. The purpose of the blog or wiki is to promote discussion, reflection, and collaboration on topics being covered in class.
5. Teachers must review the appropriate guidelines and explain that all district and school rules apply to behavior on the web site.
6. The academic social network must be made private and only permit students and educators associated to the class. Teachers are not permitted to create sites that do not have privacy settings.
7. During an active topic or theme in a discussion board thread, teachers must closely monitor the thread for appropriate content. Inappropriate behavior on the thread will be addressed according to district policy and the school handbook.

Discipline

A violation of this policy shall subject the offending student(s) to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, which may include counseling, parental conferences, detention, suspension, expulsion, and/or notification of police.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Interplay With Other School District Policies

Nothing in this policy shall prevent school employees from enforcing or imposing discipline, or fulfilling their professional responsibilities under other school district policies or student disciplinary rules.